United Church of Christ
Annual Report | 2019

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year serves as an opportunity for the disciples of the Risen Jesus to steward in new ways the gifts entrusted to us for the furtherance of our shared mission.

This annual report attempts to tell the story of the stewards of those gifts for that mission. The story you will hear as you read this report is one of a creative and faithful staff forging relationships with covenant partners here in the United Church of Christ and global partners around the world. What we all have in common is a desire to love our neighbor as ourselves having first experienced the love we have from God. We share a common vision for building a just world for all. We know that we are called to love all, to welcome all, and to seek justice for all.

This report shows in some detail how that mission is lived out around the world and here in our own churches. It is far from a complete story. At best it gives you glimpses of what we did as stewards of the gifts you entrust to us and the difference this makes in the world.

We thank you for the gifts you have shared with us. You are our covenant partners, and we value the relationship we have with you and the mission we share. Our promise is that we will use every one of those gifts to fulfill the mission for which we have been called into being. Through Our Church's Wider Mission, the special mission offerings, your personal gifts and donations, the ongoing benefit of accrued dollars endowed by the faithful who have gone before us we have built a storehouse of mission dollars that afford us the opportunity to preach the good news to the ends of the earth.

With gratitude, and with the love of our beloved Jesus, we thank you with all our heart.

Sincerely,

Yvette Wynn
United Church of Christ Board Chair

John C. Dorhauer
United Church of Christ General Minister and President

4,852
Congregations

9,753
Ordained Ministers in Full Standing

802,356
Members

OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

In January of 2019, the National Setting launched a series of initiatives aimed at robustly implementing the United Church of Christ strategic priorities named by the UCC Board of Directors: Inclusive Excellence, Strategic Organizational Alignment, Enhanced Technology Infrastructure, Organizing and Fostering Innovation, and Curriculum, Training & Development towards our vision of a just world for all. Our ten-year objective is that these priority pathways will deeply anchor the future health and wellness of a transformative United Church of Christ in the goals of:

Christ-driven Connection, God-centered Action, and Spirit-led Leadership.

To this end, the National Setting staff engaged in assessment and visioning to discern what work effort over the next several years would best speak to the strategic priorities, and what partnerships and investment of resources will be necessary to accomplish the work and actualize the goals by 2027.

Towards Fostering Innovation and Strategic Organizational Alliance: the Office of the General Minister and President hosted two events that would end up having a profound effect on the rest of the year, and quite possibly well beyond that. Each event opened up play space and invited creative thinking while coaching new behaviors for helping to develop new ways of doing our work. Each established 2019 as a year of dreaming and building for a future filled with hope and new life. Each event invited participants to propose new initiatives that, if successful, would bring new life and hope to the Church. I wish I could describe every idea that came forward and was work-shopped. I can't do that. But I can tell you that a dozen or more ideas were birthed that day that are being pursued at present with varying degrees of success and have already changed our thinking about how we do what we do.

A game-changing visionary idea presented and seeded in 2019 was the creation of a United Church of Christ Research and Development Office. This new office is now a division of the National Setting Center for Analytics, Research, Development and Data (CARDD) and will deploy researchers and data analysts to study changing trends in faith, worship, congregational life, and other matters important to the future health and vitality of our local churches. Outcomes of this R & D work will be reported regularly, detailing evolving trends, what is succeeding and why, with the hope of seeding and replicating emerging and evolving trends of success in real time.

With regard to Innovation and Technological Infrastructure, an initiative launched formally at General Synod and being facilitated and managed by our Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication (OPTIC) is UCC Everywhere, which provides high functioning, comprehensive, UCC-branded websites to local churches at rates well below market prices. This suite of services includes website design, implementation and updates – with expertise all provided by the National Setting designed to make the local churches work easier and model partnerships in practice.

OUR WORK

Also seeded in 2019 is the vision of the creation of an innovation storyboard - creation of a web-based digital platform to curate and share the good news of innovation and ingenuity at work across the church. We hope that the coming year will afford us the opportunity to develop this in partnership will other innovation thought leaders.

In the area of resourcing for a just world for all, among other National Setting initiatives in 2019 were a refashioned and newly launched Pilgrim Press, a soon to be redeveloped ucc.org, and new planning to strengthen UCC Resources as a social enterprise that sells and distributes products and materials that proclaim the good news of God's redeeming and transformative love. There is so much more.

Our missional initiative, Three Great Loves, continues to inspire and engage the United Church of Christ telling the story of faith in action across the church towards A Just World for All. Story after story lifted up from around the denomination were recorded in UC News, on our website in places like the Three Great Loves page, and on social media platforms. Our effort saw an increase of over two-fold to our webpages and social media outlets. OPTIC continues to use collaboration and alignment to forge new trust with our donors and to tell the story of the United Church of Christ to larger and larger audiences. Some call this good marketing – we call it good evangelism. We love to tell the story!

2019 also saw modest but important progress in our fundraising capabilities. We made new attempts to raise precious resources with a Giving Tuesday campaign, strengthen the Annual Fund, and complete the Shaping Our Future Campaign, which raised a total of $3,617,258! We thank God for all of you who contributed to this campaign. For those who would yet like to, please know that your gifts are and will continue to be welcomed and carefully stewarded. Your generosity is what has specifically made possible the initiatives spoken of here.

The shining moment for the National Staff was, it will come as no surprise to any of you, General Synod 32.

What many of you experience as a smooth, well-run and logistically flawless experience is the result of two years of work that reaches a peak of frenzied activity sometime in January for those of us who serve in the national offices. That frenzy doesn't end until the close of General Synod after which we all go home and collapse.

There were highlights from our time together in Milwaukee that it is important to mention. At the 2019 General Synod:

- We celebrated the careers and ministries of both Jim Moos, Associate General Minister and Don Hart, Executive Director of United Church Funds.
- We elected Karen Georgia Thompson as Associate General Minister, a moment that we will celebrate for years to come.
- An historic first for the denomination was that all preachers at General Synod were female: Kaji Spellman Dousa, Traci Blackmon, Sharon MacArthur, and Amy Butler.
- Delegates organized both a prayer vigil at the Planned Parenthood offices in Milwaukee and a march to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices, showing our ongoing support for women's rights and immigrant/refugee justice in our commitment to build a just world for all.

OUR WORK

- Resolutions included a call to produce the first ever *Manual on Church*, to formulate a behavioral covenant for the exhibit space at General Synod, drawing attention to the pain experienced by many because of opioid overdose, a call to end the establishment of private prisons, denouncing the violence of white supremacist groups, supporting survivors of rape and sexual violence.
- I was re-elected to serve a second term as your General Minister and President. For this I give God and you thanks. I invite and urge your prayerful partnership these next several years as my attention focuses more intentionally on:

  - Strategic Priorities: Towards Christ-driven Connection, God-centered Action, Spirit-led Leadership
  - Theology: From United to Uniting and Refocusing on our Core Values
  - Evangelism: Marketing our Mission and Ministry
  - Stewardship: Funding our Mission and Ministry
  - Recentering: Retooling the Resource that is the United Church of Christ National Ministries

This is not the full story of General Synod, but it does help tell the story both of the life-giving work that we undertook for the five days we were together in Milwaukee. We extend deep gratitude to the volunteers from the Wisconsin Conference. Their tireless efforts and their extraordinary hospitality overwhelmed us all – and left us feeling loved and cared for. We also extend deep gratitude to the entire staff of the National Setting. Their months of hard work and creative energy culminated in a week-long event that saw so much joy and produced so much hope. None of this happens without their dedication, their creativity, their determination, and their patient endurance.

Every day, we do our best to serve as good stewards of the gifts you entrust to us for the sake of our shared mission and ministry. We are known around the world as a denomination committed to the love of all and proud to enter the courage and struggle for peace and justice. It is evident with each passing year, and 2019 is no exception, that the love we manifest and share with the world changes lives. Thank you for your contributions to keep that mission alive.

47%
of congregations report having engaged with 2.1 million people via community outreach.

33%
of all churches contribute to all 5 offerings, earning the designation 5 for 5

68%
of local churches have a web presence

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

JUSTICE & LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

2019 was a productive year for Justice and Local Church Ministries. The year started with establishing the Overdose and Drug Use Ministries (ODUM) within the Health and Wholeness Advocacy Ministries of Justice and Local Church Ministries. An ODUM working group and information resources using the motto "People who use drugs are beloved by God" was created to advance the initiative at General Synod 32 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and beyond.

To bolster its LGBTQ-affirming ministries, additional accomplishments from Health and Wholeness Advocacy Ministries include activities to expand the reach of the Proyecto Encuentros de Gracia y Bienvenida program. Sponsorships for Creating Change, a day-long institute on faith engagement in LGBTQ+ international human rights advocacy, and the National Trans Visibility March in Washington, DC, resulted in the distribution of video and other public messages to strengthen the United Church of Christ's invitation and highlight its commitment to LGBTQ people.

$131,000 in Neighbors in Need grants were awarded to **36** churches and organizations

$365,469 was allocated from the Neighbors in Need offering to the Council for American Indian Ministry

Sacred Conversations to End Racism: A Restorative Racial Justice Journey Curriculum (SC2ER) entered its second year of engagement within the United Church of Christ. Continuing to dismantle racism within the Christian Church and society, audiences participated in some ten workshops and presentations both domestically and globally. Workshops included the Council for World Missions Conference in Capetown, South Africa, Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC, and meetings convened by multiple Conferences and Associations of the United Church of Christ: the Southern and Florida Conferences and the Detroit and New York Metropolitan Associations. Twenty-five UCC clergy and lay leaders participated in a 12-month SC2ER facilitator training. Seventeen people completed the training, and nine were examined and certified as SC2ER facilitators.

Environmental Justice Ministry received a Climate Leadership Award from Eco-America for its advocacy work, and the World Council of Churches nominated it for the UNESCO Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development. The United Church of Christ became the first Christian body to endorse the Green New Deal at General Synod 32. Environmental Justice Ministry also hosted bi-monthly webinars with leading climate scientists, influencers, and movement-builders while engaging the youth climate strike movement to bring greater attention to climate change.

OUR WORK

The Washington, DC office provided significant leadership in planning and organizing the 2019 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference around the theme "Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World." The DC Office hosted its annual pre-event program and organized a petition delivery to Senator Mitch McConnell calling for a restoration of the Voting Rights Act. Using the hashtag #GoodTrouble, Ecumenical Advocacy Days became a fitting tribute to the late Congressman John Lewis.

At General Synod, staff members of the Washington, DC office offered several workshops and provided attendees with an opportunity to take action on reproductive choice via a faith witness at a Planned Parenthood Clinic in Milwaukee. Throughout the year, the DC Office hosted immersions in faith-based advocacy, House and Senate briefings, and a United Church of Christ Conference delegation to make congressional visits to discuss immigration reform.

JUSTICE AND PEACE ACTION NETWORK

Weekly emails go to a growing list of 17,000+ members

The work of building support for the vision that all ministry settings deserve gifted, supported, and accountable pastoral leadership has consistently grounded and centered the Ministerial Excellence Support and Authorization (MESA) team. In 2019, MESA focused on offering training to seventeen conferences on matters related to authorization and oversight covered in the new *Manual on Ministry*. Participants were primarily Committee on Ministry members, Conference staff, Members in Discernment, among others. In addition to stewarding positive relationships and presenting regularly scheduled virtual gatherings, at General Synod, MESA hosted a very well-attended Antoinette Brown Award Reception, a successful Search and Call Fair, and networking events for chaplains, Members in Discernment, and a Committee on Ministry ice cream social.

Newly formed in 2018, the Faith INFO team stewarded relationships with intentionality in 2019. The working group for the *Manual on Church* was identified and began their communications. Many connections to resources, programs, and people were made through the hundreds of questions Faith INFO staff members answered from local church leaders, Conferences, and others. The Faith INFO team offered training and presentations at Star Island and the Wild Goose Festival. At General Synod, the team attended to the work of the collective body in preparing and gathering for worship. Faith INFO also hosted a storytelling event in partnership with EarshotStories called "Off The Map" where new church planters and innovators told their stories. Through Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA), the granting program awarded 12 grants totaling just over $360,000 to church plants, church renewal projects, and coaching for congregations to clarify mission.

JUSTICE & LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

12 CASA grants totaling **$360,000** were awarded to church plants and church renewal projects

At the start of 2019, The Pilgrim Press expanded its staffing, developed a refreshed logo, and issued new publications. As the overhaul of the online presence of The Pilgrim Press was underway, the new logo was presented at General Synod. Two new books were released under the new logo at General Synod: *Multi: The Chemistry of Church Diversity* (Paul Nixon) and *Dynamic Discernment: Reason, Emotion, and Power in Change Leadership* (Sarah Drummond). Also, some twelve titles from The Pilgrim Press backlist went back into circulation. The Stillspeaking Writers Group released two new titles in time for General Synod: *Worship from A to Z: A UCC Coloring Book and Hard and Holy: Devotions for Parenting*. The Stillspeaking Writers Group also produced their annual *Lenten and Advent Devotionals* in 2019. In addition, the first author retreat was convened in 2019, bringing ten writers to Phoenix, Arizona, to work on their proposed book ideas as part of the commitment of The Pilgrim Press to cultivate United Church of Christ writers. Four books from the retreat have been contracted, with another two likely to be contracted in 2021.

34
Action Alerts were issued by Justice and Peace Action Network (JPANet)

1,581
local churches are designated as Open and Affirming

55%
of all active authorized ministers are age 60 or above

The Rev. Traci Blackmon
Associate General Minister
Justice & Witness Ministries

OUR WORK

WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

Wider Church Ministries continues to be engaged in mission and ministry on behalf of the United Church of Christ both globally and locally – a "glocal" commitment that anchors the historic and contemporary witness of the denomination and its predecessor bodies. This glocal context keeps our ministries and programs globally-focused as we walk with partners and locally rooted in the settings of the United Church of Christ.

At General Synod in Milwaukee in 2019, there was a transition in the leadership of Wider Church Ministries with the election of the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson to serve as the Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

Disaster Ministries continued its focus on long-term recovery as it responded to several major disasters in the US and globally. Hurricane Dorian struck in August 2019 devastated parts of the Bahamas and Southern States. The UCC was immediately engaged and provided support including care for 25 orphaned, abused, neglected, or abandoned children evacuated from the Children's Home in Grand Bahama after the hurricane hit there. Response to other natural disasters continued with a total of $1,090,280 spent for disaster response in 2019.

Refugee and Asylum Ministries gained momentum working with churches and organizations encouraging advocates to attend rallies while highlighting the need for legislative advocacy, and engaging churches in welcoming the stranger and providing sanctuary. Stories were curated and published in *Why We Welcome Refugees* which became a feature in 2019. These stories will be included in a Refugee Welcome Toolkit, a new resource from the Global HOPE team (formerly known as Humanitarian and Development Ministry).

GLOBAL HOPE

$1.1 MILLION IN DISASTER RESPONSE

With more than 60% of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering supporting sustainable development, 2019 was a year that focused on our work in Southern Asia, in collaboration with the Global Ministries Southern Asia Initiative. The United Church of Christ also provided support to areas needing assistance with the impact of climate change on growing food, the problem of plastics in the water, trafficking, education of children in rural areas, and creating income opportunities for vulnerable families and communities.

Throughout 2019, Wider Church Ministries continued its enduring partnership with Global Ministries, which is a common missional witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. With approximately 290 faith-based international partners in close to 90 countries, we continue to provide critical presence, journeying with partners overseas as they support the needs of the communities they serve.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

54 SUMMER CAMPS IN **16** UCC CONFERENCES **18** DISCIPLES REGION

From this partnership, the Southern Asia Initiative was launched at the 2019 General Synod as an identified priority for the work of the staff for the biennium (2019-2021); and is the fourth such area initiative led by Global Ministries. The Initiative explores the region's complex history of cultures, spiritual traditions, growing economies, and emerging technology, and the reality of immense poverty and further explores issues of human dignity; rights of religious minorities; churches as open, just, and inclusive communities; and the integrity of creation. Southern Asia has become more susceptible to violent conflicts, terrorism, fundamentalism, bigotry, human rights violations, and caste-based violence.

The Mission Engagement staff designed a Southern Asia themed exhibit space for General Synod and produced an introduction video that was shared during plenary. The staff developed themed resources like videos, bible studies, brochures, giving opportunities, and more. The staff also helped with seven workshops about human trafficking, disaster ministries, advocating for global racial equality and human rights, becoming an immigrant welcoming church, global partners, Puerto Rico following the hurricane, and issues in Southern Asia.

The Global Ministries Advocacy and Education team promoted the Southern Asia Initiative at both the United Church of Christ's General Synod and Disciples' General Assembly through workshops and educational materials. The *Advent Action Calendar* for the Southern Asia Initiative is one such educational resource. A highlight every year is Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC, which was held in April 2019, and focused on the theme, "Troubling of the Waters for the Healing of the World." The associates helped plan, promote, and participated in the event in leadership roles.

3,762 ADVOCATES TOOK **13,040** TWITTER AND EMAIL ACTIONS ON:

the Philippines, Armenian Genocide, Days of Peace and Action Colombia, Iran Peacemaking, Cuba policy changes, Palestinian children in military detention, Venezuela non-intervention, and human trafficking.

Global Ministries Mission Co-workers participated in 54 United Church of Christ and Disciples summer camps reaching hundreds of young people as they shared their experiences of God's work in the world. This initiative touched 16 Conferences (as well as 18 Disciples Regions) which strengthened the connections between Global Ministries and the settings of both denominations, as outdoors ministries staff were drawn into a better understanding of Global Ministries.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PILGRIMAGES

Bangladesh - Chile - Colombia - Cuba
Dominican Republic - Ecuador - Guatemala
Haiti - India - Israel/Palestine - Mexico
Morocco - Puerto Rico - Sri Lanka - Venezuela

People to People Pilgrimages encourages and assists congregations, regions, conferences, and other related organizations of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to live out Global Ministries' mission by visiting and learning with international partners as they work for justice, reconciliation and peace. Mission pilgrimages are transforming experiences through which participants receive and share God's love while walking with international partners, sharing their joys, understanding their challenges, and discovering their unique connection to the wider Church. In 2019, the Program organized a total of 65 pilgrimages to 15 countries including a leadership trip for United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to learn more about the impacts of the embargo and to be present with partners.

The United Church of Christ continued in its commitment to Christian unity and interreligious engagement through Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. The UCC nurtured and supported relationships with full communion partners, conciliar and ecumenical bodies through the year with on-going representation and participation. The Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations provided leadership on the global challenges of racism and provided a workshop on the United Nations International Decade on People of African Descent (2015-2025) at General Synod in collaboration with The United Church of Canada.

EVENTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2,704 GENERAL SYNOD 32 ATTENDEES

The Events and Scholarship Team was responsible for the administration of the General Synod 32 that was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in June 2019, with 2,704 delegates and visitors in attendance. The Events Team, in collaboration with Purdue University, identified the essential needs of the 2020 National Youth Event and supported 28 meetings of the National Setting.

In 2019, a variety of program grants and scholarships were awarded to a diverse group of students from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in our church, students with disabilities, and gender diversity. Program grants provided scholarships to United Church of Christ related AMA institutions that educate persons of African descent and seed money for innovative faith-based domestic and international projects.

83 RECIPIENTS WERE AWARDED **$775,861** IN SCHOLARSHIPS

While the year held many transitions, challenges, and opportunities, it also revealed the steadfast commitment of the Wider Church Ministries staff, and our United Church of Christ and global partners, to the mission of the United Church of Christ, to create a just world for all.

The Rev. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries & Operations
and Co-Executive for Global Ministries

PHILANTHROPY

Your generosity makes the ministries of the United Church of Christ possible. We thank you for joining with us to serve the faithful as they grow in relationship with God.

THE NUMBERS

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

The active phase of the Shaping Our Future Campaign ended in 2019 with **$3,617,258** raised to support the United Church of Christ's technology, communications, and leadership goals.

ANNUAL FUND

$235,154 1,832 donors contributed to the Annual Fund, which provides support for operating the full scope of work provided by the National Setting of the United Church of Christ throughout the denomination and around the world.

GIVING TUESDAY

$101,954 was given to kick start the United Church of Christ's Medical Debt Relief Initiative and forgive medical debt for thousands of families in low-income areas around the country who are experiencing financial ruin simply because they got sick and needed medical care.

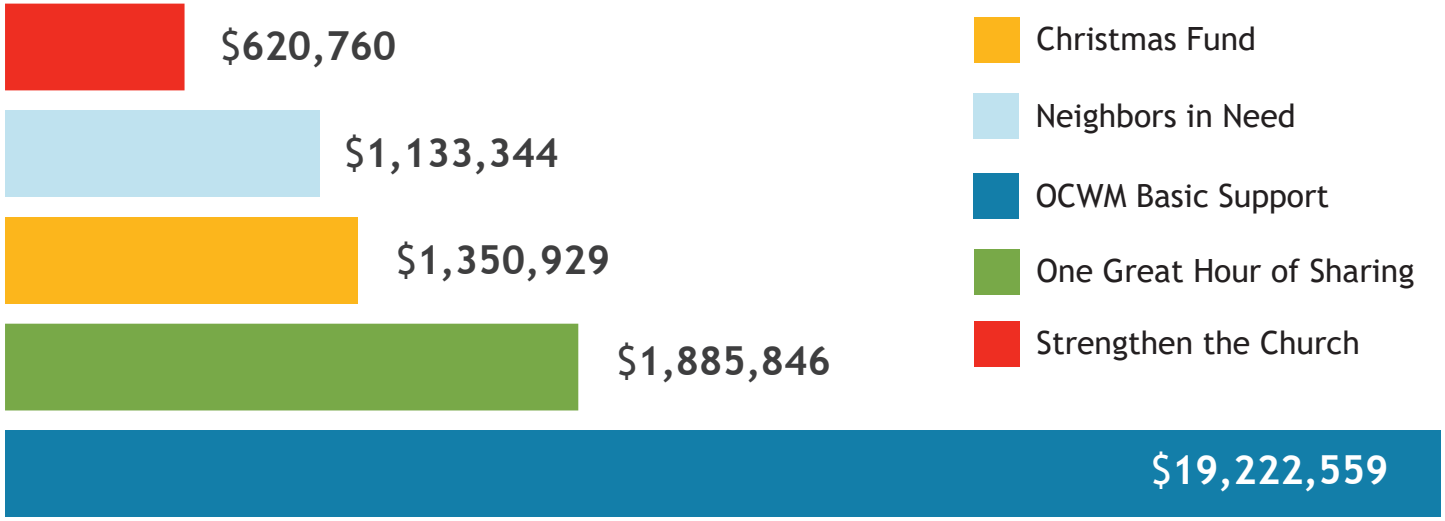
OVERDOSE AND DRUG USE MINISTRIES (ODUM)

$105,000 was given to seed the ODUM Project of the United Church of Christ, which brings together pastors, lay leaders, theologians, service providers, and activists to advocate for and increase the engagement of local churches in ministries with people who are affected by drugs, including opioids.

PHILANTHROPY

SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS & ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

GRAND TOTAL | $24,213,438



OCWM BASIC SUPPORT BREAKDOWN

Note: The figures displayed here are unaudited and represent what was reported to CARDD for individual church giving in 2019 as published in the 2020 Statistical Profile.

Contact us at giving@ucc.org to discuss how we can help you to build your legacy of generosity.

LEADERSHIP

National Setting Leadership

John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President
Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries
James A. Moos, Associate General Minister, Global Engagement and Operations*
Karen Georgia A. Thompson, Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries and Operations, and Co-Executive for Global Ministries**
Cheryl Williams, Chief Strategy Officer
Alisa Lewis, Director of Human Resources
Nicholas Katzakis, Chief Financial Officer
Heather Kimmel, General Counsel

*Departed UCC July 31, 2019 **Effective August 1, 2019

Board of Directors 2019

Faufau Alaelua
Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez
Kearstin Bailey
Cameron Barr
Caroline Belsom
Traci Blackmon
Deborah Blood
Brian Bodager
Frank Bolden
Emma Brewer-Wallin
Charles Buck
Carolyne Call
Rachel Chapman
Eleanor Chong
Michael Cich-Jones
Dennis Coy
Hannah Cranbury
John Dorhauer
Shernell J. Edney Stilley
Derrick Elliott
Gabriela Everett
John Folk
Robert (Bob) Frieberg
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Nesa Joseph
Penny Lowes
James Maki
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Yesenia Menendez-Sanchez
Keith Mills
Gloria-Ann Muraki
James Moos
David Nelson
Kevin Omi
Kevin Peterson
Michael Readinger
Inez Reid
Franz Rigert
Carol Shipley
D'Angelo Smith
Hannah Snyder-Samuelson
Kyle Steever
Paul Tché
Karen Georgia Thompson
John Vertigan
Harriet Corean Ward
Diane Weible
Marsha Williams
Norman Williams
Bill Worley
Yvette Wynn
Jeanette Zaragoza-DeLeon
Lewis Zeidner

Non-Board Committee Members 2019

Lawrence Bashe
Ember Kelley
Rick Oberle
Ron Patterson
Shari Prestemon
Kristine Shorey Forbes
Andrew Warner

FINANCIALS

The financial results in the tables below are summarized from the audited financial statements of the United Church of Christ Board and Certain Affiliated Entities ("UCCB"), which received an unmodified opinion from our outside auditors. We have not provided the full version of the audited financial statements due to mailing costs. However, we encourage you to go to the UCC website at: ucc.org/about-us_annual-report to download the full version of the audited financial statements, including the footnotes. The footnotes to the audited financial statements are a required, integral part of a company's external financial statements. They are necessary because not all relevant financial information can be communicated through the amounts shown (or not shown) on the face of the financial statements.

Total operating revenues and support were down $4.0 million or 13.9% in 2019 compared to 2018, primarily due to a $4.5 million decrease in revenue from the hotel, which was sold in March 2019. Additionally, the decrease can be attibuted to lower levels of support for the Our Church's Wider Mission offering of $0.1 million and other revenue of $0.2 million. The 2019 decrease was partially offset by increases in gifts, donations and trust income of $0.2 million and management fees and other reimbursements of $0.4 million.

Total operating expenses decreased by $4.1 million or 12.9% in 2019 compared to 2018, primarily due to an decrease in program services of $3.9 million as a result of the sale of the hotel. Additionally, this decrease can be attributed to a $0.2 million decrease in fundrasing expenditures.

Non-operating revenues and support increased $76.8 million in 2019 compared to 2018, primarily due a $73.9 million appreciation of the market value of investments and the change in the value of beneficial interests in trusts held by others of $3.6 million.

Should you have any questions regarding the financial statements of the UCCB, please contact me at the United Church of Christ Board, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115, 216-736-3206.

Thank you for your continuing support of our Church.

Sincerely,

Brian Tracy
Acting Chief Financial Officer

FINANCIALS

The United Church of Christ Board and Certain Affiliated Entities

Combined Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	Actual		Better (Worse)	
	2019	**2018**	**$**	**%**
Operating revenues and support:				
Our Church's Wider Mission:				
Basic support	4,868,269	4,984,542	(116,273)	-2.3%
Special support	3,462,436	3,480,447	(18,011)	-0.5%
Gifts, donations and trust income	1,779,288	1,564,143	215,145	13.8%
Other revenues:				
Publications and other resource sales	1,202,102	1,234,045	(31,943)	-2.6%
Total return draw	8,275,966	8,175,239	100,727	1.2%
Management fees and other reimbursements	2,546,805	2,052,931	493,874	24.1%
Church loan interest	1,730,836	1,716,250	14,586	0.8%
Other	495,694	684,684	(188,990)	-27.6%
Hotel revenue	807,984	5,351,191	(4,543,207)	-84.9%
Total operating revenues and support	**25,169,380**	**29,243,472**	**(4,074,092)**	**-13.9%**
Operating expenses:				
Program services	21,743,142	25,670,570	3,927,428	15.3%
Management and general	4,526,114	4,521,550	(4,564)	-0.1%
Fundraising	1,704,272	1,934,787	230,515	11.9%
Total operating expenses	**27,973,528**	**32,126,907**	**4,153,379**	**12.9%**
Decrease from operating activity	**(2,804,148)**	**(2,883,435)**	**(79,287)**	**2.7%**
Non-operating revenues and support:				
Gifts and donations	1,895,821	3,146,215	(1,250,394)	-39.7%
Interest and dividends net of total return draw	(3,527,253)	(3,361,510)	(165,743)	-4.9%
Appreciation in value of investments	46,335,200	(27,573,352)	73,908,552	268.0%
Change in value of beneficial interests of trusts held by others	1,889,441	(1,781,570)	3,671,011	206.1%
Change in value of split interest agreements	188,634	(495,684)	684,318	138.1%
	46,781,843	**(30,065,901)**	**76,847,744**	**255.6%**
Increase (decrease) in net assets before the effect of postretirement cost	**43,977,695**	**(32,949,336)**	**76,768,457**	**233.0%**
Postretirement related changes other than net periodic postretirement cost	(708,313)	101,663		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	**43,269,382**	**(32,847,673)**		
Net assets - beginning of year	358,550,771	391,398,444		
Net assets - end of year	401,820,153	358,550,771		

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FIND*US*

United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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